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Field Office

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Cooperating with
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of Agriculture

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HARVEST CONTINUES, DESPITE RAINFALL

Farmers across Tennessee made good progress last week harvesting corn, cotton, and soybeans, despite several cold fronts which ushered in fall-like temperatures and wet conditions. Corn growers took advantage of the five days suitable for field work last week, harvesting an additional 16 percent of their acreage. Almost three-fourths of the crop has been harvested, ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. As of Sunday, only five percent of the corn silage remained unharvested. Soybean harvest slowed due to wet fields, but progress is still a week ahead of normal. Over two-thirds of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition. Cotton acreage continued to have bolls open with 40 percent of the crop defoliated. Nearly a tenth of the cotton acreage had been harvested by week’s end. Tobacco harvest moved closer to completion and was progressing on schedule. Last week’s rains helped pastures in parts of Middle and East Tennessee, in addition to refilling some dried-up ponds and streams. Some livestock markets, however, have had heavy sales due to producers liquidating cattle because of a shortage of hay, pasture, and water in a few areas. Fall armyworms have once again invaded a few counties, damaging pastures and hay fields.

As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 10 percent very short, 20 percent short, 64 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 14 percent very short, 23 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus. Temperatures across the State were cooler than average the first part of the week before rising to several degrees above average by the end of the week. Precipitation was above normal across the entire State.

CROP PROGRESS: Through September 24, 2006					CONDITION: On September 22, 2006					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2005	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn Harvested for Grain	73	57	58	69	Cotton	2	3	19	58	18
Corn Harvested for Silage	95	92	95	96	Pastures	13	19	31	33	4
Cotton Bolls Opening	90	75	88	79	Soybeans	3	9	21	51	16
Cotton Defoliated	40	20	46	44						
Cotton Harvested	7	2	8	8						
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	69	52	78	53						
Soybeans Harvested	18	13	19	10						
Burley Tobacco Harvested	83	75	86	85						
Air-Cured Tobacco Harvested	93	87	96	95						
Fire-Cured Tobacco Harvested	87	82	88	87						

County Agent Comments

“Harvest of all crops getting into full speed ahead. Most yields I have heard are really good, always a few reported less than expected. Busy with variety demonstration harvests. Producers hoping rain will continue to hold off even though we have an excellent chance for rain this weekend. We had a good rain on Monday - 1.75 inches over most areas of county. It was needed.”

Tim Campbell, Dyer County

“Rainfall has helped improve soil moisture conditions across the county, but has slowed corn and soybean harvest. Corn harvest is quickly wrapping up in most of the county with the exception being in northern Weakley County where corn is drying down slowly. Soybeans are maturing quickly and many producers will move directly from corn harvest into soybeans.”

Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“Fall armyworms are still invading Coffee County in record numbers. Bermuda grass fields, alfalfa fields, and some orchard grass and fescue pastures have been damaged or destroyed. Some newly planted wheat has been wiped out.”

Dean Northcutt, Coffee County

“Apple harvest has begun with apples being smaller in size due to dry weather.”

Jerry Lamb, Rhea County

“Excess rains has again altered crop harvesting. Cold mornings have placed many producers in a difficult position to quickly harvest crops. Pasture conditions are looking great for the fall of the year.”

Anthony Shelton, Washington County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION
 For week ending: September 24, 2006 (with comparisons)

LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F Since April 1	
	Week Ending September 24, 2006				Current Week 09/24/06	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN					Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	90	47	70	0	2.15	5	36.02	-2.52	2656	362
Tri-City_RGNL_A	84	39	65	-2	1.01	3	32.01	0.83	1750	167
Brownsville_TN	91	48	70	-2	2.38	5	35.34	-3.14	2726	688
Chattanooga/Lov	89	50	72	2	3.22	4	33.58	-6.11	2683	478
Clarksville_Sew	84	45	67	-3	3.37	4	35.25	-1.87	2435	379
Cookeville	88	43	66	-2	4.26	4	40.63	-1.68	1989	703
Covington	89	48	68	-3	4.45	5	40.54	2.86	2467	130
Crossville_AP	82	40	66	1	2.82	4	35.97	-5.35	1795	338
Dayton	83	45	66	-4	3.30	4	33.08	-8.50	2153	201
Dickson_AG	87	42	66	-4	2.78	4	42.58	2.83	2075	-65
Dover_1W	86	46	65	-3	3.33	4	36.32	-2.29	2228	398
Dyersburg	90	46	69	-3	3.03	5	37.36	0.64	2677	198
Erwin_1W	85	42	65	1	1.24	4	40.69	3.01	1717	-160
Huntingdon_Wate	89	46	67	-3	2.41	4	39.94	0.98	2395	447
Jackson_Exp_Stn	90	48	69	-1	2.43	5	35.52	-2.72	2592	349
Kingston_AG	83	43	65	-3	3.67	4	42.70	-0.63	2168	472
Knoxville_AP	86	46	68	-1	4.29	4	36.63	1.22	2372	468
Lewisburg	93	42	67	-2	2.99	3	35.96	-4.25	2282	368
Lexington_TN	89	47	68	-3	2.95	4	42.86	5.64	2346	968
Linden	90	43	67	-2	2.89	5	39.35	-1.36	2303	375
Martin	89	45	66	-4	5.34	5	44.89	6.17	2399	255
Mc_Minnville_Tn	87	44	68	-1	3.06	5	40.62	1.10	2308	-71
Memphis_AG	92	52	71	-2	2.90	5	34.87	-2.73	2874	101
Milan	90	42	67	-3	3.76	4	38.93	-1.03	2431	336
Murfreesboro_5N	90	44	67	-2	3.12	4	41.03	1.48	2338	-36
Nashville_Metro	91	50	72	2	3.30	3	35.13	-0.20	2669	412
Newcomb	83	41	63	-2	1.48	4	38.79	-2.02	1778	406
Oneida	83	41	64	-2	2.69	4	41.99	1.18	1796	-231
Portland_TN	86	46	65	-3	3.12	4	34.55	-3.57	2165	291
Pulaski_Water_P	91	44	67	-4	3.37	3	37.64	-2.79	2390	147
Savannah_6SW	91	46	70	-2	1.29	4	38.07	-3.44	2608	620
Sparta_TN	87	42	67	0	4.17	5	41.19	0.39	2232	615
Springfield	88	40	65	-4	4.16	4	39.39	2.77	2048	174
Springhill	93	40	67	-1	0.87	4	34.80	-5.43	2341	435
Union_City	87	45	65	-4	7.59	5	47.14	9.44	2242	166
Waynesboro_TN	90	42	67	0	2.10	4	39.16	-3.06	2163	10

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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